

OUR SMART SOCIETY

DO NOT THINK RICHES AND VIRTUES CANNOT HARMONIZE.

A Minority of Our Wealthy Citizens Included in the Smart Set—A Recent Popular Novel Depicts the Smart Set as Cruel and Corrupt—The Picture Even If Overdrawn Points a Warning—America Must Heed the Lesson or Suffer the Fate of Greece and Rome.

BY MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

Those of us who are outside the smart set and who have no wish or expectation ever to be within it, have of course only a vague idea of the life it leads. What is called the smart set includes only a few among the great mass of Americans, most of us being working people, to whom each day brings a routine of duties and who are perfectly satisfied if we make both ends meet, and have a little over at the end of the year.

It would not be fair to say of the smart set that it is composed of the idle rich. They, too, are in the minority. A great many wealthy men and women are anything but idle. They toil as strenuously as the poorest, they do a great deal of good, often without ostentation, and they are not even on the edge of the set about whom we are thinking.

A woman may wear sables and diamonds, go to Europe every year, live in great elegance and entertain royally and still be as sweet and simple and gentle as her neighbor who manages a small income with economy and makes bright her little home.

It is not what we have, but what we are that makes true womanhood lively and charming. A man may administer millions and be as good and true and honorable as the humblest clerk in his employment. It is a dangerous doctrine which teaches that the poor are better than the rich, because of their poverty, or the rich worse than the poor because of their wealth. Automobiles are not inventions of the devil, nor are sumptuous houses dens of iniquity.

We who have no acquaintance with the smart set except as the society column in the newspapers report its goings and to and fro, its weddings, divorces and remarriages, have recently been afforded a peep at it in the pages of a popular novel, said to be written by one who has had special opportunities for knowing whereof she speaks. The glimpse of the smart set given us in this romance is distinctly depressing. Gathering about a central figure, that of a beautiful orphan girl, are men and women who seem to have about as much of the milk of human kindness in their veins as wolves in a pack. The women gamble, the men do worse. As for any ethical standard, if the "House of Mirch" is to be trusted, it does not exist in the smart set. Men and women are openly or furtively unfaithful to their marriage vows; a married man does not hesitate to take a contemptible advantage of the helplessness of a girl who has been his wife's intimate friend. Men sneer at virtue, think the worst of each other, and of the women who are their kindred. Chivalry is apparently a lost art. Honor is a faint mirage on a remote horizon. A girl incurs financial obligations from a man, and henceforth becomes more and more entangled in a web of duplicity, and in meshes which fatally ensnare her. Her intentions are not evil, but her very inability to comprehend that any values beyond those that are financial are known in the world, complicates the situation for her. Married women write compromising letters to men whom they meet socially, who are supposed to be friends of their husbands, and in one case the man who is more nearly a gentleman than any other in the book, simply tears such letters in two and tosses them into the waste basket. There is hardly, in the whole story, a character who could decently pass muster among ordinary men and women, the two who are supposed to be patterns of goodness being singularly destitute of humor and common sense.

If the smart set be like this, so heartless, so corrupt, so cruel, our conclusion is that its career must be short. There is far too much essential reality in America to endure very long that which is wholly false and meretricious.

We are fain to believe, however, that the picture is overdrawn. There must be behind the silken portieres and velvet hangings of these exquisite homes some who have kept unharmed a fairer ideal. All the young women who go to French dressmakers and wear gowns that cost a fortune are not like poor Lily Bart, who from babyhood had been taught that the only life worth living was a life of display, and that it were better to die and be done with it than to be out of the fashion. All the men who understand the ups and downs of finance and whose names are spells to conjure with in the market, are not sordid and mean and rapacious. Our Hebrew friends have a right to protest against their representative in these pages that profess to depict with truth the successful climbing of one of their race to the perch which seemed to him a fitting goal for his ambition. Notwithstanding the melancholy muddle of it all, there must linger shreds of human kindness and commonplace goodness in the smart set.

Yet the picture points a moral and indicates a warning. It is like a danger signal on the road. We, in America, are sliding forward at a tremendous pace. We are becoming nomadic; not contented with permanence and stability, with homes that gather to themselves the sweetness of fond associations and the glory of old traditions—we are becoming accustomed to a migratory life.

A man need not be a multi-millionaire to own three or four homes and spend only a fraction of the year in any of them. Families, not of the smart set are too prone to disintegrate. The wife and daughters are not unwilling to let the ocean roll for months together between themselves, and the hard-working father, who is busy accumulating more millions at home. Young men too early allowed control of large sums grow irresponsible and wasteful and, alas! end by filling the grave of the drunkard or the suicide. All history combines to prove that too much luxury breeds corruption, tempts individuals to dishonesty, and menaces the very continuance of a dominant people. That which happened in the dim past to Greece and Rome may happen to America in the twentieth century of the Christian era, if we shut our eyes to lessons that are given in the glimpses we have of the smart set.

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CHILDREN'S PARTIES.

Do Not Make the Mistake of Having Too Many Guests and Have Only Simple Refreshments.

You ask how to give a children's party successfully. In the first place do not make the mistake of asking too many. Fourteen is a good number, or ten, for little people need a great deal of individual attention. If possible have one or two friends to assist in the entertainment. Such games as "Going to Jerusalem," "Drop the handkerchief," "Here we go round the Mulberry bush," "London Bridge" and "Pussy wants a corner," are always favorites with the children and never seem to lose their novelty.

Most of the games are more interesting if played to music.

Provide a low table with the red chairs, such as are used in kindergartens and infant class Sunday school rooms. Red candles, with a bowl of scarlet flowers, red candles in the cake in rose holders make the table very pretty. Small red paper holders come to contain bonbons, which should be sugar peppermints for the wee guests.

Place cards may be made by pasting dainty childish pictures on red cardboard, using black, gold or white ink for lettering the names and date.

Invitations for children's parties may be written on the quaintly decorated paper that comes especially for the purpose, or small sized note paper may be used. Refreshments should be simple; plain sandwiches, cocoa, animal crackers, bread sticks. Some of the Swiss milk chocolates are delicious as bonbons. Serve ice cream in ramekins and there should be small cups and spoons. Bibs for each one are appreciated by the mothers, while paper napkins should also be provided as the children love the gay colors, especially the Japanese ones that come folded in shape of animals.—Madame Merril.

A BUTTONHOLE BORDER.

No Decorative Needlework Is More Favored Now and Always Comes In Well on Flannels.

This border is suitable to be worked on the edges of flannel petticoats, infants' flannel head-squares, or any flannel article requiring a simple yet



A NEAT BORDER.

strong finish. The outline should be run out twice with soft cotton, then worked over in buttonhole with flannel embroidery silk or soft mercerized cotton, of which there are many excellent makes to be purchased.

NEEDLEWORK NOTES.

The marabout fans are beautiful, some having sticks of real tortoise shell, others mother of pearl.

The batistes and dimities offered for 12 and 15 cents a yard are simply too attractive to pass. They come in a variety of designs and colorings.

Unbleached linen will be very popular for runabout frocks and the blouse are usually tucked to yoke depth and embroidered sparingly in some small design.

An original bracelet consists of a sea serpent, the head and fins of massive gold, the scales of gold and silver, each one set with a different precious stone, emerald, opal, sapphire, amethyst, sardonyx, etc. This bracelet coils around the arm from the shoulder to the elbow and with the present decorative styles and small shoulder straps, after the fashion of Greece and the empire, has an extremely fascinating effect.

A nouveaute from Paris are ruffles made of leather, which are sewed around the bottom of the skirt to protect them from the dust and dirt of the streets. The ruffles are made of leather of moderate weight dyed to match the color of the gown. They are pulled on to a leather band which is attached by means of buttons and button-holes to the bottom of the gown. In this way these ruffles need only to be worn in the street and can be taken off and brushed and cleaned. They protect the gown better than one can imagine, as well as giving the required stiffness to hold out a skirt well around the bottom.—Chicago News.

To Keep Young.

And to get back to keeping young, the very best of common sense is for every woman to look at her best every minute of her life.

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY.

Billboard Man Sees a Lot of Blank Space on a Tall Forehead.

The comedian and billboard man were enjoying dinner in a restaurant, and laughing heartily as they listened to each other's amusing experiences, relates the New York Times.

A young man sat opposite. He was pompous in pose, correct in dress, most dignified in manner, and very deliberate and exact in his conversation with the waitress.

The man's forehead was immense. Frequently, to give the impression of deep thought, he would direct attention to himself by sweeping a limp hand slowly across his massive brow. He was fast becoming offensive to the other diners.

Suddenly the billboard man paused in zealous effort of one of his experiences. He gazed intently at the expanse of forehead opposite, and with the regrets natural to a man of his profession, said plaintively: "Say, Bill, what a lot of blank space going to waste."

DISFIGURED WITH ECZEMA.

Brushed Scales from Face Like Powder—Under Physicians Grew Worse—Cuticura Works Wonders.

"I suffered with eczema six months. I had tried three doctors, but did not get any better. It was on my body and on my face so thick that I could hardly put a pin on me without touching eczema. My face was covered, my eyebrows came out, and then it got in my eye. I then went to another doctor. He asked me what I was taking for it, and I told him Cuticura. He said that was a very good thing, but that he thought that my face would be marked for life. But Cuticura did its work, and my face is now just as clear as it ever was. I told all my friends about my remarkable cure. I feel so thankful I want everybody far and wide to know what Cuticura can do. It is a sure cure for eczema. Mrs. Emma White, 411 Cherry Place, Camden, N. J., April 25, 1905.

If there is really so much room at the top, some of us exhibit great cleverness in finding any place at all at the bottom.—Home and Abroad.

It Cures While You Walk.

Allen's Foot-Ease is a certain cure for hot, sweating, callous, and swollen, aching feet. Sold by all Druggists. Price 25c. Don't accept any substitute. Trial package FREE. Address Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

Much Easier Way.

Cynic (savage)—They say the fashionable mother of to-day recognizes her baby only by looking at the nurse. Fashionable Mother (unmoved)—How extraordinarily clever, when one changes nurses so often! I always tell ours by the carriage.—Stray Stories.

Misapplied Energy.

"Your husband has a wonderful intellect, and how," said the soothing relative. "Yes," answered the woman who tells her troubles; "he is one of these men who insist on worrying about the treasury deficit instead of the grocery bill."—Washington Star.

Needs Regulating.

Jeweler—I don't see anything the matter with this clock. It strikes all right. Gayboy—That's just what the matter! I want you to fix it so it will strike eleven for one.—Detroit Free Press.

GET RID OF THE GAS

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Strengthen the Stomach and Enable It to Do Its Work.

When the stomach is feeble the food lies in it undigested, decays and throws off poisonous gases that distend the walls of the stomach and cause interference with other organs, especially with the action of the heart and lungs. These gases have other ill effects. The nerves and the brain are disturbed and discomforts such as dizziness, hot flashes, sleeplessness, irritability and despondency originate from this source.

Experience shows that these troubles vanish just as soon as the stomach is made strong enough to digest the food. In other words, it needs a tonic that will rouse it to do the work of changing the food into nourishment.

Miss Minerva C. Ladd, of Ipswich, Mass., says: "I had a weak stomach from the time I was a little child. Whenever I took hearty food it would cause terrible faintness, and I would finally vomit what I had eaten. At times there would be the most intense pains through the upper part of my body. For days in succession, I would have to lie down most of the time. The distress was often so great that I could hardly bear it, and the frequent and violent belching spells were very disagreeable, too.

"My doctor's medicines gave me little relief and it was not until I tried Dr. Williams' Pink Pills that I found a cure. Within three weeks a decided improvement was noticeable. The belching spells were less frequent, the pains through my body were not so intense, my food was retained and after taking the pills for a few weeks longer I found that I was altogether free from the miseries I had so long suffered from.

Every dyspeptic should read "What to Eat and How to Eat." Write the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Schenectady, N. Y., for a free copy.

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No Joke on Him. "My dear," said Mrs. Stronge, "I'm sure that our George is thinking seriously of matrimony."

"Well, I only hope so," returned her husband, with unusual spirit. "I wouldn't like any boy of mine to regard it as a joke."—Stray Stories.

Cures Rheumatism and Catarrh—Medicine Sent Free.

Send no money—simply write and try Botanic Blood Balm at our expense. Botanic Blood Balm (B. B. B.) kills or destroys the poison in the blood which causes the awful aches in back and shoulder blades, shifting pains, difficulty in moving fingers, toes or legs, bone pains, swollen muscles and joints of rheumatism, or the foul breath, hawking, spitting, droppings in throat, bad hearing, specks flying before the eyes, all played out feeling of catarrh. Botanic Blood Balm has cured hundreds of cases of 30 or 40 years' standing after doctors, hot springs and patent medicines had all failed. Most of these cured patients had taken Blood Balm as a last resort. It is especially advised for chronic, deep-seated cases. Impossible for any one to suffer the agonies or symptoms of rheumatism or catarrh, while or after taking Blood Balm. It makes the blood pure and rich, thereby giving a healthy blood supply. Cures are permanent and not a patching up. Drug store, \$1 per bottle. Sample of Blood Balm sent free and prepaid, also special medical advice by describing your trouble and writing Blood Balm Co., Atlanta, Ga.

Women make their fancies give up such expensive habits as smoking and drinking, and cling right on to the matinee and bon-bon habit.—Judge.

To Cuba, Every Friday, the Havana Limited.

A swell Pullman train of dining car, club car with smoking room, barber shop and bath room, with barber and valet in attendance; stateroom, drawing room and observation sleeping cars, leaves St. Louis at 9:45 P. M. via the Mobile and Ohio R. R., and arrives at the steamship docks at Mobile at 3:00 P. M. Saturdays. On arrival of the Havana Limited, the palatial nineteen-knot, twin-screw S. S. "Prince George" sails, and passes into the harbor of Havana at sunrise Mondays.

Returning to the S. S. "Prince George" sails from Havana at 5:00 P. M. Wednesdays, arriving at Mobile at daylight Fridays, and the Havana Limited leaves the steamship docks at 9:00 A. M. and arrives at St. Louis Saturday mornings. A delightful week's outing—inexpensive and full of interest. Low rate excursion tickets good for six months. Call on your home Agent or write Jno. M. Beall, General Passenger Agent, St. Louis.

The fellow who marries for money sometimes buys a gold brick.

The Passenger Department of the Chicago & North-Western Railway announces that as a means of increasing the efficiency of the "Seeing America First" movement, round trip tickets will be sold over that line to all Pacific Coast points, good on their fast limited trains, at the rate of \$75.00 from Chicago, daily June 1st to Sept. 15th. Every facility is being provided for in the way of stopovers and other conveniences, and the tourist movement to the Pacific Coast for the coming season promises to show an increase of many thousand people over that of any season ever known.

When a peck of trouble comes we never complain of short measure.

Retreat Cut Off. "By the way, Mr. Hankinson, papa made such a funny remark about you the other evening."

"What was it, Miss Bella?"

"He said he wondered why you were coming here so often."—Chicago Tribune.

Popular Line to the East.

The splendid passenger service of the Nickel Plate Road, the care and attention shown passengers have made it a favorite with the inexperienced as well as those accustomed to travel. Every feature necessary to the comfort and convenience of the passengers, especially ladies traveling alone or accompanied by children, is provided. Colored Porters in Uniform are in attendance to serve the wants of all and to see that cars are kept scrupulously clean. Pullman Sleepers on all trains, and an excellent Dining service, serving Individual Club meals or a la Carte at moderate cost. When traveling East purchase your tickets via the Nickel Plate Road. All trains depart from the La Salle St. Station, Chicago. For full information regarding tickets, rates, routes, sleeping car reservations, etc., call on or address J. Y. Calahan, General Agent, No. 111 Adams St., Chicago, Ill.

A man would hardly ever mind being married if he didn't have to acquire so many good habits.—N. Y. Press.

Lewis' Single Binder straight 5c. You pay 10c for cigars not so good. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

"He that hath thriven may lie till seven," but he ought to tell the truth the rest of the day.

GREAT SCOTT.

The Biggest Man of Addison County, Vt., Tells an Interesting Story.

E. E. Scott, meat dealer, Vergennes, Vt., Past Commander of Ethan Allen Post, G. A. R., says: "A severe attack of typhoid left me with weak kidneys. Every night I had to get up frequently to pass the urine, which was ropy, dark and very painful to void. I had no appetite, but drank water continually without being able to quench my thirst. Terrible headaches and dizzy spells oppressed me and my back was lame, sore and stiff. A month's treatment with Doan's Kidney Pills rid me of this trouble, and now I am strong and healthy and weigh 230 pounds. I give the credit to Doan's Kidney Pills."

Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

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is a cure for constipation, and the headache, backache, sideache and general debility that come from constipation stop when the bowels do their proper work.

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For Your Liver

"I had dumb chills and fever," writes Edna Rutherford, of Atlanta, Tex., "and suffered more than I can tell. I tried all the medicines I could think of and four doctors, but nothing helped until I began to take

Thedford's BLACK-DRAUGHT

I now feel better than I have in many months and thank God and you for your wonderful medicine." For Constipation, Indigestion, Stomach Trouble, Biliousness, Sick Headache, Sallow Complexion, Pimples, Blisters, Impure Blood and all troubles caused by an inactive Liver, Thedford's Black-Draught will be found a safe and reliable remedy. Be sure you get Thedford's.

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